

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 ARAE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 CIAE-00

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O 301445Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7665

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECLA, PFOR, TD, US

SUBJ: U.S. DELEGATION TO ECLA BIENNIAL SESSION

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS TO PRESIDENT FORD WELCOMING U.S. DELEGATION TO FORTHCOMING SIXTEENTH SESSION OF ECLA TO BE HELD MAY 6- 15 IN PORT OF SPAIN. LETTER, APPARENTLY SENT TO ALL HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN ECLA, STATE THAT "REPRESENTATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE," DR. WILLIAMS SAYS THAT EFFORTS TO HANDLE ISSUES SUCH AS A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER", MID-TERM APPRAISAL OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND MATTERS RELATED TO THE NEXT SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON THE LEVEL OF AUTHORITY OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION. LETTER HAS BEEN POUCHED TO ARA/CAR FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WHITE HOUSE.

2. ECLA OPENED A REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE CARIBBEAN IN PORT OF SPAIN SOME YEARS AGO AS A RESULT OF PER- SISTENT PRODDING BY DR. WILLIAMS, AND TRINIDAD'S OFFER TO HOST THIS ECLA MEETING IS DELIVERATE ATTEMPT TO

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DRAW THE CARIBBEAN REGION TO THE ATTENTION OF ECLA

MEMBERS. DR. WILLIAMS WILL PERSONALLY HEAD TRINIDADIAN
DELEGATION, AND HE HAS STAKED MUCH OF HIS PERSONAL
PRESTIGE ON A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

3. LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE AT ECLA SESSIONS IS LIKELY TO
BE AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN TRINIDAD, SINCE SOME LATIN
AMERICAN NATIONS REPORTEDLY ARE MIFFED AT PM'S RECENT
REMARKS ABOUT "RECOLONIZATION OF THE CARIBBEAN", AND
MAY DELIBERATELY SEND LOW-LEVEL DELEGATIONS TO ECLA.
EMBASSY HAS NOT LEARNED MUCH ABOUT COMPOSITION OF OTHER
NATIONS' DELEGATIONS, BUT UNDERSTANDS THAT FRANCE IS
SENDING A HIGH-LEVEL ONE. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SECRE-
TARY OF THE TREASURY HEADED U.S. DELEGATION TO LAST
BIENNIAL SESSION IN QUITO, LEVEL OF U.S. DELEGATION TO
THIS SESSION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE UNFAVORABLY COMPARED
WITH QUITO MEETING, BUT THIS NEED NOT IMPAIR MATTERS
IF U.S. DELEGATION IS HEADED BY AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH-
LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE.

4. I HAD ALREADY INFORMALLY TOLD PRIME MINISTER
WILLIAMS THAT WE EXPECTED U.S. DELEGATION TO BE HEADED
BY AMBASSADOR FERGUSON, AND ALTHOUGH HE WAS DISSAPPOINT-
ED THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WOULD NOT BE AT ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LEVEL, HE DID NOT OBJECT. I UNDERSTAND NOW
THAT AMBASSADOR FERGUSON WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND
ECLA MEETING, QAND I URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO
SELECT A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT LEAST AS SENIOR AS
AMBASSADOR FERGUSON. TO SEND ANYONE OF LESSER RANK WOULD
NOT BE FAVORABLY INTERPRETED BY THE PM AND COULD BE
CONSIDERED A DELIBERATE INSULT.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, TD, US, ECLA, (FORD, GERALD R), (WILLIAMS, ERIC EUSTACE)
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